

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vaginal speculum comprising:  
a handle; and  
a dilator comprising a first, shorter dilator member and a second, longer  
5 dilator member;  
wherein the shorter dilator member is positioned between the longer  
member and the handle.
2. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, further comprising an actuator adapted  
to rotate at least one dilator member.
- 10 3. The vaginal speculum of Claim 2, wherein the actuator is adapted to  
rotate the shorter dilator member.
4. The vaginal speculum of Claim 2, wherein the actuator is adapted to  
rotate the longer dilator member.
5. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the second, longer member is  
15 pivotable proximate to the junction of the second dilator member and the handle.
6. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the first, shorter member is  
pivotable proximate to the junction of the first dilator member and the handle.
7. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the dilator is disposed at an  
angle substantially 90 degrees with respect to the handle.
- 20 8. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the dilator is disposed at an  
obtuse angle with respect to the handle.
9. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the dilator is disposed at an  
angle between about 100 degrees and 145 degrees with respect to the handle.
10. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the dilator is disposed at an  
25 angle between about 90 degrees and 135 degrees with respect to the handle.
11. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the first and second members  
comprise an arcuate blade.
12. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a first  
handle member and a second handle member.
- 30 13. The vaginal speculum of Claim 11, wherein the first handle member is  
integrally formed to the longer member.

14. The vaginal speculum of Claim 11, wherein the first handle member is pivotably attached to the longer dilator member.

15. The vaginal speculum of Claim 11, wherein the second handle member is integrally formed to the shorter dilator member.

5 16. The vaginal speculum of Claim 11, wherein the second handle member is pivotably attached to the shorter dilator member.

17. The vaginal speculum of Claim 1, further comprising a coupler adapted to facilitate adjustment of the relative spatial position between the first and second dilator members.

10 18. a first, shorter dilator member;  
a second, longer dilator member;  
an actuator adapted to pivotally rotate;  
a handle comprising a first handle member and a second handle member,  
wherein the first handle member is attached to the longer dilator member and the  
15 second handle member is integrally formed with the shorter dilator member;

wherein the shorter dilator member and the longer dilator member are positioned within an angle less than 180 degrees of the handle, and wherein the shorter dilator member is positioned between the handle and the longer member and within the angle less than 180 degrees.

20 19. The vaginal speculum of Claim 17, further comprising a coupling device adapted to slidably adjust the relative spatial position between the first and second dilator members.

20. A vaginal speculum comprising:

a first, longer dilator member;

25 a second, shorter dilator member;

an actuator adapted to pivotally rotate the shorter member with respect to the longer member;

a handle comprising a first handle member and second handle member, wherein the first handle member is integrally formed with the longer dilator member and the second handle member is attached to the shorter dilator member;

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wherein the shorter dilator member and the longer dilator member are positioned within an angle less than 180 degrees of the handle, and wherein the shorter dilator member is positioned between the handle and the longer dilator member and within the angle less than 180 degrees.

5           21.     The vaginal speculum of Claim 19, further comprising a coupling device for slidably adjusting the relative spatial position between the first and second dilator members.

          22.     A method for examining a patient lying on her back, comprising:  
                  positioning a speculum in a vaginal cavity using a handle disposed above  
10           a dilator having a shorter member and a longer member, wherein the longer member is below the shorter member.

          23.     The method of Claim 21, further comprising sliding the handle upward to create a relative spatial relation between the dilator members.

          24.     The method of Claim 21, further comprising pivoting the shorter member  
15           with respect to the longer member to adjust the angular relation between the members.

          25.     The method of Claim 21, further comprising pivoting the longer member with respect to the shorter member to adjust the angular relation between the members.